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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/697,323	YOKOI, AKIYOSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sandra L. Brase	2852	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10/31/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>10/31/03 & 12/12/03</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |

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1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claims 1, 4/1 and 5/1

The reason for allowance is a method of remanufacturing a process cartridge comprising: a frame separating step for separating the first coupling frame from the developing unit and from the photosensitive member unit; a photosensitive member unit separating step for, after the frame separating step, separating the photosensitive member unit by deforming the second coupling frame in a state where the second coupling frame and the developing unit are fixed to each other; a photosensitive drum detaching step for, after the photosensitive member unit separating step, detaching the electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the photosensitive member unit; a photosensitive drum attaching step for, after the photosensitive drum detaching step, attaching one of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum and a new photosensitive drum; a photosensitive member unit engaging step for engaging the photosensitive member unit with the second coupling frame that is fixed to the developing unit; and a frame engaging step for engaging the first coupling frame with respective end portions of the developing unit and the photosensitive member unit. The above limitations are contained in claims 1, 4/1 and 5/1, but are not taught or suggested by the art of record.

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Claims 2, 4/2 and 5/2

The reason for allowance is a method of remanufacturing a process cartridge comprising: a frame separating step for separating the first coupling frame from the developing unit and the photosensitive member unit; a fastening releasing step for releasing fastening of the photosensitive member unit to the second coupling frame; a photosensitive member unit separating step for, after the fastening releasing step, separating the developing unit and the photosensitive member unit from each other by deforming the second coupling frame in a state where the developing unit and the second coupling frame are fixed to each other; a photosensitive drum detaching step for, after the photosensitive member unit separating step, detaching the electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the photosensitive member unit; a photosensitive drum attaching step for, after the photosensitive drum detaching step, attaching one of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum and a new photosensitive drum; a photosensitive member unit engaging step for engaging the photosensitive member unit with the second coupling frame that is fixed to the developing unit; and a frame engaging step for engaging the first coupling frame with respective end portions of the developing unit and the photosensitive member unit. The above limitations are contained in claims 2, 4/2 and 5/2, but are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Claims 3, 4/3 and 5/3

The reason for allowance is a method of remanufacturing a process cartridge comprising: a frame separating step for separating the first coupling frame from the photosensitive member unit and from the developing unit; a fastening releasing step for releasing fastening of the second

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coupling frame to the developing unit; developing unit separating step for, after the fastening releasing step, separating the photosensitive member unit and the developing unit from each other by deforming the second coupling frame in a state where the photosensitive member unit and the second coupling frame are fixed to each other; a photosensitive drum detaching step for, after the developing unit separating step, detaching the electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the photosensitive member unit; a photosensitive drum attaching step for, after the photosensitive drum detaching step, attaching one of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum and a new photosensitive drum; a developing unit engaging step for engaging the developing unit with the second coupling frame that is fixed to the photosensitive member unit; and a frame engaging step for engaging the first coupling frame with respective end portions of the photosensitive member unit and the developing unit. The above limitations are contained in claims 3, 4/3 and 5/3, but are not taught or suggested by the art of record.

Prior Art

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kavolius et al. (US 5,729,795), Nishiuwatoko et al. (US 6,141,513), Lewis et al. (US 6,754,460), Higeta et al. (US 2001/0036373) and Miyabe et al. (US 2002/0159788) disclose a method of remanufacturing a cartridge.

Inquiry

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sandra L. Brase whose telephone number is (571) 272-2131. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur T. Grimley, can be reached on (571) 272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sandra L. Brase
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

March 21, 2005